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by the corolla tips. In our hybrid the mean is struck, with this exception that the corollas are not of as uniform a length as in the types. Two are quite short and the others are long, as if there was an indecision due to contending forces naturally expected in a hybrid. But the point that is most interestingly striking is the happy mixing of the floral colors. The ligulate corollas are of peculiar purple and yellow, not easily described in words. To say they are rose is to come near, but not to accurately name the shade. The lower part of the flowers have a decided yellow tint, so that upon looking into the center of the head the inner part is of a yellow cast, while the outer parts, the marginal flowers, have the violet predominating.

It is rarely that we have such strikingly different colors as purple and yellow in close inflorescences in species of such manifest near kinship as our two *Tragopogons*, and they open up an interesting field for experiments in artificial hybridization with reference to the permanence of colors and other questions in cross-fertilization. The supposed natural hybrid plant has been marked, and it is hoped to save seed from it and determine if possible the enduring qualities of the progeny.

BYRON D. HALSTED.

RUTGERS COLLEGE, May 19, 1890.

Botrychium simplex, Hitch., in Maryland.

So far as I am aware this plant has until recently been known from only "New England, New York and northward."* A variety, however, is found in Wyoming Territory and California. During the early part of the summer of 1888, I found *B. simplex*, Hitch., growing in an overgrown thicket near Ellicott City, Md.

There were only three small plants growing near one another. I took one and marked the exact spot of the remaining two. Next season I could find no sign of either, but nearby (foot or two) were two others which either were not there the year before or that I did not notice, although I searched the place for some time. Growing in the same thicket I may mention, among the rare ferns, at least in this vicinity, *B. ternatum*, Swz., (two vars.), as well as *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, L., which is, indeed, more plentiful in this thicket than either of the above named species.

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* It has been found on the Pocono Mt., Pennsylvania.—ED.

At first I had some doubt whether my discovery was *B. simplex* or some nearly related species. But to settle all doubts I had recourse to one better acquainted with the ferns of this country then I, and sent the plant to Prof. L. M. Underwood (whose beautiful work on the subject I have been using). He very kindly confirms my opinion. He said, "Your specimen is a medium sized form of *Botrychium simplex*, which as you say, greatly increases the range of the species as published." In conclusion, I may add that within a radius of two miles from Ellicott City I have found between twenty-five and thirty species of ferns. Among them is one rare one, not already mentioned, *Camptosorus rhizophyllus.* Ferns are, indeed, in abundance in the neighborhood of Ellicott City. JOHN B. EGERTON.

Notes on Melica and Poa.

In the last number of the BULLETIN is an article entitled "Grasses in the Wrong Genus Cover" by Dr. W. J. Beal, in which article two species heretofore ascribed to *Poa* are transferred to *Melica.* I feel obliged to dissent from the views of Dr. Beal and will briefly give my reasons. In the genus *Melica,* so far as I am aware, the flowering glumes are always thicker than the empty glumes, and are generally rounded on the back, at least not compressed and keeled. The characters of *Melica* are well given by Dr. Thurber in Bot. Cal. Vol. 2, p. 302. Describing the flowering glumes (which he calls lower palets) he says: "Lower palet at length subcoriaceous, rounded or flattish on the back, 5 to many-nerved, the scarious tip usually blunt and entire or 2-toothed, &c." Again, "sterile flowers much the smaller and convolute together at the top of the spikelet." In describing *Poa,* he says: "Lower palet herbaceous or membrano-herbaceous, with scarious margins and top, compressed-keeled, &c."

The two *Poas* transferred by Dr. Beal agree with the characters of the genus *Poa* except in the obtuse glumes, and that is subject to much variation in other species of true *Poa. Poa macrantha* probably belongs to a group of polygamous or dioi-